



Location - Hells Canyon Road from Oxbow Bridge near Copperfield, Oregon, north along the Idaho side of the Snake River to Hells Canyon Dam.

Length - 22 miles. Allow 3 hours round trip from Cambridge.

Roadway - Hells Canyon Road is a narrow, winding two-lane paved road with several steep grades. It is owned and maintained all year by Idaho Power Corporation.

When to see it - Throughout the year.

Special attractions - Hells Canyon National Recreation Area features the deepest gorge in North America; guided float and jet boat trips on the Snake River; guided tours of Hells Canyon Dam; Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center.

Camping - Copperfield Park, Hells Canyon Park, Big Bar.

Services - Partial services 2.5 miles west of Copperfield. Full services in Cambridge.

Contacts - Managed by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 541-523-6391; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, www.fs.fed.us/hellscanyon, Idaho office: 208-628-3916, Washington office: 509-758-0616, non-commercial float information: 509-758-1957, non-commercial powerboat information: 509-758-0270; Payette National Forest: 208-549-4200; Hells Canyon Creek Visitor Center: 541-785-3395 (Available during summer months); Idaho Power Company: 800-422-3143.

Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway winds its way along the east side of this massive rift that separates Idaho from neighboring Oregon. While the view from the road is breathtaking, a guided float trip or jet boat tour of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area is a must. Towering cliffs of black and green basalt hang so high above the Snake River and its sandy beaches that boaters strain their necks to see these places. Outfitters offer one-to six-day trips.

Look for wildlife including mountain goats, Big Horn sheep, bald eagles and great fishing. During the summer months, visit the Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River.

Today, walls of the canyon are like a museum, where pictographs and petroglyphs display evidence of the Indians' early settlements. The surrounding area was the home of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Other tribes, including the Shoshone, Bannock, North Paiute and Cayuse Indians, were frequent visitors to the area. These tribes were drawn to the region by relatively mild winters, lush foliage and plentiful wildlife.

